



**Indiana  
Department  
of  
Health**

# Drug Overdose Prevention Newscast

Oct 25, 2022

## Updates

### Opioid Overdose Response Startup Receives NIH Grant

Rescue Biomedical, an Indiana-based company, has received a \$2.82 million Fast Track Small Business Innovation Research grant from the National Institute of Health. The company is developing a minimally invasive, subcutaneous device that automatically delivers naloxone to a person who is experiencing an opioid overdose.

Hyowon "Hugh" Lee, CEO of Rescue Biomedical, plans to partner with recovery clinics and clinicians to identify opioid use disorder (OUD) patients who are at high risk of overdose. Lee notes that "OUD patients who recently undergo treatment are at a higher risk of overdosing again due to their lowered tolerance." With overdose rates at record highs, this funding comes at a critical time. Rescue Biomedical hopes its technology will develop an be an innovative addition to other harm reduction strategies.

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### Maternal Mortality and Substance Use Report

A new report from the Indiana Department of Health revealed that 92 Hoosier women died during pregnancy or within one year of giving birth in 2020. This is a startling 40% increase from 2019. Many of the maternal mortalities are associated with substance use. According to the report, 43% of the pregnancy-associated deaths were attributed to substance use disorder, and 30% of the pregnancy associated-deaths were due to accidental or undetermined overdose.

The Indiana Maternal Mortality Review Committee has accounted these statistics and formulated several recommendations to improve Hoosier maternal health outcomes. Dr. Caroline Rouse, assistant professor of clinical obstetrics and gynecology at IU School of Medicine, says that public health efforts should focus on supporting mothers' mental health during the postpartum period. She also recommends screening patients for substance use disorder and providing families with Naloxone.

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### NaloxBox installed at DePauw University

Earlier this month, DePauw University became the first college campus in Indiana to install a NaloxBox. Located on the corner of Olive and College streets, this machine provides easy access to Naloxone kits and local resources about overdose prevention. DePauw University partnered with Overdose Lifeline, which is funded by the Indiana Family and Social Services Administration, to install the NaloxBox. Overdose Lifeline previously installed two other NaloxBoxes in Putnam County. One is located at the Putnam County Public Library and the other is at Rose Park.

Justin Philips, executive director of Overdose Lifeline, is thrilled to partner with DePauw. He notes that "this access will save lives." DePauw Health and Wellness Center staff will monitor the NaloxBox to ensure it stays stocked.

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## Upcoming Events

### The What: Evidence-Based Alcohol Policies to Reduce Community-Level Harms

**2 p.m. – 4 p.m. EDT, Oct. 27**

**Hosted by: Southeast PTTC**

In this interactive webinar, participants will discuss alcohol policy strategies that are effective in reducing underage drinking and associated community-level harms. The discussion will be led by three alcohol policy specialists.

Learn more about this event [here](#).

### Culturally Responsive Practice

**8:45 a.m. – 11 a.m. CT, Oct. 28**

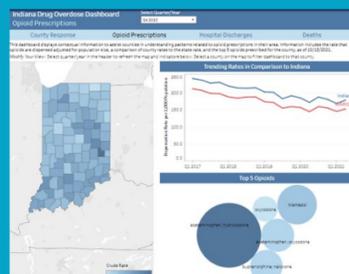
**Hosted by: Great Lakes MHTTC**

Effective healthcare professionals can adapt services to patients' cultural needs, which leads to better health outcomes and a sustainable provider-patient relationship. In this session, participants will uncover their own cultural identities and learn how to navigate cultural conversations. The conversation will be led by Warren Duncan, who is a program director for a Minnesota not-for-profit organization that supports people experiencing homelessness.

Learn more about this event [here](#).

## Indiana Drug Overdose Dashboard

Please visit the [Indiana Drug Overdose Dashboard](#), where you will find data from 2017 up to provisional data for 2021. In this dashboard, you will find data regarding opioid prescriptions, hospital discharges, and drug-related deaths. You can use this dashboard to explore overdose data at the county and state levels.



To **promote**, **protect**, and **improve** the health and safety of all Hoosiers

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